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ABSTRACT

This book tells the story of the Kids are People School in Boston, Massachusetts, which began as a day care facility, enthusiastically welcomed children with special needs, and developed a multicultural inclusive elementary school. It is the story of the school's determination to provide the therapeutic services essential for each child's development and to adjust the curriculum so that all children could successfully participate. Its history has been a stormy one, but its success suggests that the inclusion concept can work given the right environment. The book was written to show that inclusion can and does work; to help people who want to create inclusive programs do it right; and to point out problems with the ways that children with special needs are educated, tested, and treated. The book addresses the goals and practices required to allow every child to be included in regular classes, with the expectation that the child's special needs--educationally, personally, and socially--will be addressed with appropriate programs. Chapters address characteristics of the children; teaching methods; staff configuration; curriculum and materials; accessibility; evaluation; specialists; and comments of parents, children, and staff. Appendices offer a brief history of special education and inclusion, a glossary, a sample evaluation checklist for daily living skills, and a list of classroom resources. (Contains 14 references.) (JDD)

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